

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

East Lansing, April 20, 2011

Members Present:

Jim Derocher, Negaunee
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Karen Leinaar, Bear Lake
Pete Ryan, Saginaw

Staff Members Present:

Tom Rashid
Jack Roberts (Recorder)

Executive Committee Authority and Responsibility – The Executive Committee reviewed its authority under Article VII of the MHSAA Constitution and specifically its responsibility to consider each application for waiver of an eligibility requirement on its individual merits, determining if the regulation serves the purpose for which it was intended in each case or if the regulation works an undue hardship on any student who is the subject of a request for waiver. (These underlying criteria may not be restated for every subject of these minutes.)

The Executive Committee was reminded that it was the responsibility of each member school involved to provide sufficient factual information about the specific request for the Executive Committee to reach a decision without further investigation. If information is incomplete, contradictory or otherwise unclear or has been received too late to be studied completely, the Executive Committee may deny the request for waiver or delay action. Such requests may be resubmitted to the Executive Committee with additional information at a subsequent meeting or appealed to the full Representative Council.

It is possible that some of the information presented as facts to the Executive Committee by school personnel and others may be inaccurate. However, to avoid constant repetition in this report of phrases such as “it was alleged” or “it was reported,” no attempt is made in the introduction of each waiver request to distinguish between truth, allegation, hearsay, opinion, summary or conclusion. If any information provided to the Executive Committee is inaccurate, any decision of the Executive Committee to grant waiver of a regulation shall be null and void.

The Executive Committee is not authorized to approve waiver based on alleged or actual differences between schools based on “environment,” demographics, curriculum or extracurricular offerings. A determination of undue hardship is a matter addressed to the discretion of the Executive Committee within the educational philosophy and secondary role of voluntary extracurricular competitive athletics in the academic environment. The Executive Committee will avoid making exceptions that would create precedent that effectively changes a rule without Representative Council action or local board of education adoption, which would exceed Executive Committee authority. The contract the MHSAA has with member schools obligates the MHSAA to not change rules during the school year.

Students for whom waiver of a particular regulation is approved must be eligible in all other respects under all sections and interpretations of the regulations prior to their participation.

Adoption of these regulations, as well as policies, procedures and schedules of MHSAA tournaments, is a choice schools make locally when they consider their option of MHSAA membership. Consistent with rulings of the Attorney General and Michigan Supreme Court, schools are not bound by the decisions of the Executive Committee, but the association may limit participation in the post-season tournaments it sponsors to those schools which choose to apply rules and penalties as promulgated by the MHSAA and adopted by each member school's board of education. The MHSAA exercises no independent authority over schools or students.

Custer-Mason County Eastern and Manistee Catholic Central High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in boys and girls soccer between these two schools whose combined 2011-12 enrollment of 208 students will continue placement of a team in the Division 4 tournaments. Mason County Eastern sponsored boys and girls soccer previously and will be the primary school. Support from the West Michigan D League was submitted.

Detroit-Northwestern and Detroit-Diplomas Now High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee tabled until not later than its June 15 meeting a partially completed application for a cooperative program in boys and girls basketball, boys and girls track & field, boys and girls tennis, girls volleyball, baseball and football between these two schools of the same district with a combined projected 2011-12 enrollment of 870 students. Northwestern would be the primary school. Diplomas Now will be a new Detroit Public High School operating with a 9th grade for the first time in the fall of 2011-12 with an anticipated enrollment of 160 students. The new school will be housed in a wing of Northwestern High School and will issue its own diploma and transcript. School and Board of Education signatures and Detroit Public School League approvals are pending.

Holton and Fremont-Providence Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program between these two schools in football with a combined 2011-12 enrollment of 361 students. Holton has sponsored football previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Central States Activities Association was received.

Manistee and Manistee Catholic Central High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive committee approved the addition of boys and girls swimming & diving to the cooperative program that has existed between these two schools since 2007 in boys and girls track & field and boys and girls cross country. The combined 2011-12 enrollment of 571 students will continue placement of teams in Division 3 tournaments. Manistee High School sponsored boys and girls swimming previously and will be the primary school. Support from the Coastal Swim Conference was submitted.

Maple City-Glen Lake, Leland, Glen Arbor-The Leelanau School and Lake Leelanau-St. Mary High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee tabled until not later than its June 15 meeting a partially completed application for the addition of Lake Leelanau-St. Mary to a cooperative program in boys tennis which has existed among the other schools since 2009. The combined 2011-12 enrollment of 517 students would continue placement of a team in the Division 4 tournament. Glen Lake would continue as the primary school. Board and superintendent signatures from Glen Lake are pending.

Mesick and Buckley High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee tabled until not later than its June 15 meeting a partially completed application for a cooperative program between these two schools in football with a combined 2011-12 enrollment of 346 students. Mesick has sponsored football previously and would be the primary school. Support from the Northwest Conference and signatures from Mesick are pending.

Morrice and Lansing Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee approved a cooperative program in football between these two schools whose combined 2011-12 enrollment will be 352 students. Both schools sponsored football previously, Lansing Christian in a cooperative agreement with Lansing Catholic which has been dissolved. Morrice will be the primary school; support from the Genesee Conference was submitted.

Norton Shores-Mona Shores, Muskegon and Muskegon-Western Michigan Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[F]) – The Executive Committee tabled until not later than its June 15 meeting a partially completed application for the addition of Western Michigan Christian to a girls swimming & diving cooperative program between Muskegon and Mona Shores High Schools. Since the breakup of agreements in excess of 3,500 students in 2006, one-half of Muskegon High School's enrollment is placed with Mona Shores High School, the other half with Reeths Puffer High School. A parallel boys cooperative program was approved in October of 2010. The combined enrollment for classification purposes of 2,211 students would continue placement of a team in the Division 1 tournament. Signatures and approval from the Muskegon and Mona Shores Boards of Education are pending. Support from the OK Conference is pending.

Saginaw-Nouvel Catholic Central High School and Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee tabled until not later than its June 15 meeting a partially completed application for a cooperative program in girls swimming & diving between these two schools whose combined enrollment of 592 students would continue placement of a team in the Division 3 tournament. Nouvel Catholic Central sponsored swimming previously and would be the primary school. Signatures and a resolution of support from Arts and Sciences Academy are pending. Support from four future opponents has been requested.

Wyoming-West Michigan Lutheran and Wyoming-The Potters House Christian High Schools (Regulation I, Section 1[E]) – The Executive Committee tabled until not later than its June 15 meeting a partially completed application for a cooperative program in boys and girls cross country between these two schools whose 2011-12 combined enrollment of 228 students would continue placement of a team in the Division 4 tournament. West Michigan Lutheran was in an agreement previously with Byron Center-Zion Christian which has dissolved. West Michigan Lutheran will be the primary school. Approval from The Potters House governing board and support from future opponents are pending.

Kalamazoo Central High School (Regulation I, Sections 4 & 5) – A request to waive the maximum enrollment and competition portions of the eligibility regulation was made on behalf of a student who will be a fifth year senior in the 2011-12 school year and who has a medical condition and had academic deficiencies attributed to this condition. The student was eligible and participated with the 9th grade basketball team at Mattawan in 2007-08 and the junior varsity team at Loy Norrix in the in 2009-10 school year. He was ineligible due to academic deficiencies and did not participate in athletics for the 10th grade in 2008-09.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Temperance-Bedford High School (Regulation I, Sections 4 & 5) –A request to waive the maximum enrollment and competition portions of the eligibility regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who has been diagnosed with a medical condition that, in the 10th grade during a portion of the 2008-09 school year, caused the student to be on homebound status, receiving credit for six classes over three trimesters. The student was unable to participate in athletics during this time. For the first trimester of the 11th grade, the student passed two courses and was approved for a waiver of the previous academic credit record regulation by the Executive Committee on Feb. 24, 2010, provided the student passed all three classes in the second trimester. The student participated in girls soccer in the spring of 2009-10 and the current season (2010-11). The school requested another year of eligibility as the student will be attending school through 2011-12.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Camden-Frontier High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A confidential request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of two 10th-grade half sisters who are placed in a transitional youth home located in the Camden-Frontier School District. Some students in the residential facility are wards of the court; others are not. The students have been in other treatments and facilities and their clinical diagnosis prevents them from living at home. These students previously attended Dearborn High School. One sister was enrolled Oct. 25, 2010, the other Jan. 10, 2011. Neither has any previous participation in athletics. Camden Frontier does not have subvarsity sports.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Eastpointe-East Detroit High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who has lived with an aunt and uncle for eight years prior to having a falling out with them which resulted in his relocation to a sister's home in Eastpointe. The student's father has been incarcerated for 15 years. The student's mother, not part of his life, died two years ago. The student previously attended Warren Woods- Tower High School before enrolling at East Detroit High School on Jan. 24, 2011.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Haslett High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student whose father died four years ago and whose mother died on Jan. 20, 2011. The student attended Owosso High School and lived with his stepfather until late March 2011 when he moved into Haslett with his grandparents, enrolling at Haslett High School on March 29, 2011. The student was a ward of the court prior to the grandparents obtaining guardianship.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Macomb-Lutheran High School North (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment. The student previously attended Sterling Heights-Henry Ford II High School before enrolling at Lutheran North on March 9, 2011.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Lutheran High School North beginning March 9, 2011.

McBain-Northern Michigan Christian High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student who attended Northern Michigan Christian through the 10th grade before moving with his family over the summer of 2010 to Grand Rapids in anticipation of the mother's marriage. The student attended Grand Rapids-NorthPointe Christian High School and participated in athletics. The family home in Cadillac was vacant but kept as a vacation cottage. The engagement has been broken off and the family will be relocating to the original home in Cadillac and the student will be reenrolling at Northern Michigan Christian, the former school but not the closest nonpublic school, to begin the 2011-12 school year. The family will no longer possess or rent an apartment in Grand Rapids.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Oscoda High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request to waive the transfer regulation was made on behalf of a 9th-grade student whose father is in the military in Japan. The student and his mother were evacuated from Japan due to the earthquake and tsunami while the father remains in service. The student and mother are living with the student's grandmother. The student enrolled at Oscoda High School on April 11, 2011.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver.

Oxford High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made on behalf of an 11th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment. The student previously attended Orchard Lake-St. Mary's, participated in junior varsity lacrosse, and enrolled at Oxford High School on April 1, 2011. The student would like to participate in wrestling at Oxford.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver.

Sault Ste. Marie-Sault Area High School (Regulation I, Section 9[D]) – A request was made on behalf of a 12th-grade student to waive the transfer regulation to permit eligibility on the 91st school day of enrollment. The student plays non-school amateur ice hockey. The student returned home to Livonia and began home schooling. To begin the 2010-11 school year, the student relocated to Sault Ste. Marie, again without his parents, and enrolled at Sault Area High School on Oct. 13, 2010.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver effective with the student's 91st school day of enrollment at Sault Area High School beginning Oct. 13, 2010.

Wayland Union High School (Regulation I, Section 9) – A request was made on behalf of an 11th- grade student to waive the transfer regulation and specifically the language of Exception 14 (expelled student returning to former school). On Nov. 14, 2010, the student was asked to withdraw or face expulsion. The student enrolled at Grand Rapids-South Christian High School, did not participate in athletics, and passed all classes. The student reenrolled in the alternative education program at Wayland Union on April 12, 2011.

The Executive Committee tabled the request for waiver.

Subvarsity Waiver Requests Meeting All Conditions of Section 9(B) – The Executive Committee approved immediate eligibility at the subvarsity level for the following transferring 9th- or 10th-grade students (after entering 9th grade, before completing 10th grade) **who have not previously participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest in any MHSAA sport at the high school level** (whether MHSAA member schools or not) and who do not qualify for one of the 15 stated exceptions to the transfer regulation and have transferred for reasons having nothing to do with athletics, discipline or family finances and would not require Executive Committee evaluation or comparison of school demographics or curriculum:

Requesting High School	Grade	Former High School	Date of Enrollment	Length of Subvarsity Eligibility Status
Corunna	9	Durand	Oct. 26, 2010	Remainder of 2010-11
Escanaba	9	Carney-Nadeau	Jan. 24, 2011	Remainder of 2010-11
Greenville	9	Greenville-Grattan Academy	Feb. 1, 2011	Remainder of 2010-11
Greenville	9	Belding	March 22, 2011	Jan. 16, 2012

Escanaba High School (Regulation II, Section 6) – A request to waive the 600-mile travel limitation was made to permit Escanaba High School (enrollment 855 students) to play a varsity football game at Victoria, Minnesota-Holy Family Catholic High School (570 students) on Saturday, Sept. 10, 2011 at 1 p.m. Holy Family Catholic is approximately 405 miles from Escanaba. On March 31, 2011, a contract was voided by Detroit-West Side Christian High School (enrollment 69 students) because of new league commitments and the dissolution of a cooperative agreement with Detroit Community High School (531 students). As of April 5, 2011, three schools were listed on the third date under Games Wanted. Ishpeming-Westwood (351 students) is open but declined Escanaba's offers to play, and two Class D Metro Detroit area teams are also open on the third date.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for this game on the date and time indicated.

Hartland High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 233, a request to waive the three-/four-player rule for the 2011-12 school year was made on behalf of the head girls varsity swimming coach who is employed full time by the Hurricane Swim Club and is also a year-round water safety instructor and lesson coordinator for Hartland Community Education. The Hurricane Swim program is open to students ages 5-18 and anticipates 100-150 participants from six school districts including Hartland (Brighton, Linden, Milford, Howell and Fenton). It is estimated that 20-25 of the participants are Hartland students grades 7-12. A request for this coach and this program was approved in 2010-11. An additional request was made for the boys varsity coach, who is a full-time graduate student whose sole source of income is from coaching swimming, including the Hurricane Swim Club.

The Executive Committee approved the request for waiver for both persons for the 2011-12 school year.

Muskegon Catholic Central High School (Regulation II, Section 11[H]) – Pursuant to Interpretation 233, a request to waive the three-/four-player rule for the 2011-12 school year was made on behalf of the head boys and girls varsity and middle school swimming coach who is employed by the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District as an instructional assistant. Muskegon Catholic Central is the primary school in a boys and girls swimming & diving cooperative program with Muskegon Heights and North Muskegon. The coach would like to coach the Grand Haven Swim Club which is open to students in grades 7-12 and involves approximately 45 students from five school districts including Muskegon Catholic Central (Spring Lake, Fruitport, Muskegon and Holland). Ten to fifteen students in the program are swimmers in the cooperative agreement.

The Executive Committee did not approve the request for waiver, citing the specific requirements of Interpretation 233.

Regulation III, Section 1(C) – Pursuant to 2010-11 *Handbook* Interpretation 258, waiver of the enrollment regulation has been approved for the following junior high/middle schools to permit 6th-grade students to participate with and against 7th and/or 8th graders for the sports listed in the 2011-12 school year only.

Junior High/ Middle School	Sport(s)	High School Enrollment	Middle School Enrollment
Atlanta	all sports (boys & girls basketball, boys & girls track & field)	124	19 7 th graders 28 8 th graders
AuGres-Sims	boys & girls basketball, boys & girls track & field, girls volleyball	121	32 7 th graders 25 8 th graders
Twining-Arenac Eastern	boys & girls basketball	95	22 7 th graders 20 8 th graders

Muskegon Catholic Central/Muskegon Heights/North Muskegon Cooperative Program (Regulation III, Section 1[C]) – The Executive Committee did not approve the request of the Muskegon Catholic Central/Muskegon Heights/North Muskegon cooperative program to allow 6th-grade students to participate with and against 7th and 8th graders in middle school swimming & diving.

Representative Council – The Executive Committee reviewed the agenda for the May 1-2, 2011 Representative Council meetings.

Next Meetings – The next meetings of the Executive Committee are scheduled for Sunday, May 1, 10:30 a.m. in Bellaire, with Representative Council meetings to follow); Wednesday, June 15, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Monday, Oct. 3, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; Wednesday, November 2, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. in East Lansing; and Thursday, December 1, 2011, at 1:30 p.m. in East Lansing.